THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) After the presentation of Budget for 1991-92 in July, 91 the wolesale prices of essential commodities, such as cereals, pulses dry chillies, coking coal, petrol, kerosene, atta, sugar, salt, vanaspati, and mustard oil have shown a rising trend. The price indices of other items of mass consumption have either remained steady or declined during this period.

(b) In addition to the continuing impact of the inflationary tendency erupted in the economy during the later part of 1990-91, the increase in the prices of cereals like wheat and rise was caused due to revision in the procurement prices and consequent rise in issue prices, the gap in the demand and supply of edible oils and pulses, increase in railway freight rates during 1991, increase of excise duties on certain commodities, the unavoidable increase in petroleum product/prices (except for kerosene and diesel) and issue prices of sugar and fertilizers in the Budget for 1991-92, fail in the production of khariff crops etc.

(c) Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister regularly monitors the prices and supply position of various essential commodities, Import of edible oils against exim scrips through STC has been allowed. States have also been allowed to import edible oils with foreign exchange earned by them. Public Distribution System (PDS) has been revamped and the PDS allocations of sugar, rice and wheat to certain States have been enhanced and upper limits have been imposed on exports of rice and wheat. States have directed to ensure strict enforcement of the Essential Commodities Act for dehoarding commodities in short supply and to take appropriate steps to ensure timelly and adequate supplies of essential commodities in all areas within the State and removing infrastructural constrains, if any. The prices of 10 essentail commodities are being monitored on daily basis by the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को मजबूत बनाया जाना

445. **डा० अबरार अहमद :**
चौधरी हरि सिंह :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को मजबूत बनाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं; और

(ख) क्या प्रधान मंत्री के हाल ही के राजस्थान दौरे से इस प्रक्रिया में तेजी आयी है ?

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकटस्वामी) : (क) और (ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार ने अभिज्ञात क्षेत्रों में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुएं पहुंचाने के कार्य में सुधार लाने के लिये सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को नया रूप देने क लिये कदम उठाये हैं। राज्य सरकारों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों के साथ परामर्श करके विभिन्न क्षेत्र विशिष्ट कार्यक्रमों जैसे सूखा संभावित क्षेत्र कार्यक्रम, मरूस्थल विकास कार्यक्रम, समेकित आदिवासी विकास परियोजना और कुछ निर्दिष्ट पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों के तहत आने वाले लगभग 1700 ब्लाकों की पहचान की गई है। राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों से अनुरोध किया गया है कि वे अतिरिक्त उचित दर की दुकानें खोलें उन लोगों को राशन कार्ड जारी करें, जिन्हें अब तक ऐसे राशन कार्ड जारी नहीं किये गये हैं, उचित दर दुकानों तक सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की वस्तुओं की सुपुर्दगी सुनिश्चित करने के लिये कदम उठायें, जाली राशन कार्डों/यूनिटों को समाप्त

करें और ग्राम स्तरों पर सतर्कता समितियां गठित करें। प्रधान मंत्री महोदय ने 1-1-92 को बाड़मेर में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को नया रूप देने के लिये एक योजना का शुभारंभ किया है । राज्य सरकारों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र प्रशासनों तथा इस मंत्रालय द्वारा भी इस योजना की प्रगति की नियमित रूप से परिवीक्षा की जा रही है। अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को मजबूत और सुप्रवाही बनाने का कार्य एक निरन्तर जारी रहने वाली प्रक्रिया है ।

447 [*Transferred to the 6th March* 1992]

Changes in the Coal Policy

447. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the changes made in the Coal Policy since the budget 1991-92 was passed ;

(b) whether these changes have affected the economy adversely ; and

(c) if so, what corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Coal assesses the demand of coal, plans the production programme and provides necessary help and guidance in the process of production and satisfaction of consumer demand. The coal policy of the Government thus aims at satisfying the coal demand by production of planned quantity of coal efficiently and economically with due regard to quality, safety, conservation and environment. There have been no changes in this position since the budget of 1991-92.

Shortage of Coal and other fuels in Bihar

448. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of coal and other fuels in most parts of Bihar particularly in Barauni Industrial Areas of Begusarai;

(b) whether Government have received any representation for opening a coal dump unit at Berauni Begusarai to meet out the fuel demand and for generating employment in these areas ; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to taken in meeting the public demand of the areas ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) According to available information there is no acute shortage of coal and other fuels in most parts of Bihar including Barauni Industrial Area of Begusarai. In line with the present policy on stockyards, Coal India Limited is encouraging and assisting the State Governments and their undertakings in setting up and managing coal stockyards. The initiative for setting up a coal stockyard at Barauni Begusarai therefore has to be taken by the Government of Bihar.

Losses suffered by Coal India Limited

449. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have increased the prices of coal to reduce the losses suffered by Coal India Limited ;